

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1723
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2007
DISEASE AFFECTED TOMATO CROP
Khanna Shri Avinash Rai

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the tomato crop was destroyed due to a disease in Punjab and other States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the extent of loss suffered by farmers as a result thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

- (a): Yes, Sir. The Government of Punjab has reported incidence of blight on tomato during November and December, 2006. There are no reports from other States about the incidence of blight on tomato crop.
- (b): Tomato crop in 18 districts of Punjab are reported to have been affected due to blight disease, with an estimated loss of about 25% of crop area.
- (c): The Central Government advises the State Governments/Departments of Horticulture/ Agriculture to monitor the pest and disease situation in various crops and provide advisories, so that the States can take appropriate control measures to avoid crop losses. Further, to assist the States, Central Government has established 31 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres in 28 States and one Union Territory under the scheme `Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India`. The mandate of these Centres is pest/disease monitoring, production and release of bio-control agents/bio-pesticides, conservation of bio-control agents and Human Resource Development in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) by imparting training to Agriculture/Horticulture Extension Officers and farmers at grass root level by organizing Farmers Field Schools (FFSs). Under the scheme 10041 FFSs have been organized over the years, wherein 41154 Agriculture/Horticulture Extension Officers and 302641 farmers in different States/Union Territories have been trained on latest IPM technology in various crops. IPM package of practices for pest/disease management in 77 major crops including tomato have been developed in collaboration with State Department of Agriculture/ Horticulture/Indian Council of Agricultural Research Institutions/State Agriculture universities which have been circulated to all States/Union Territories for their use.